

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 086221

14

ORIGIN NEA-04

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /005 R

66640

DRAFTED BY: NEA/ EGY: MSTERNER

APPROVED BY: NEA/ EGY: MSTERNER

----- 130725

R 072100 Z MAY 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USINT CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 086221

FOL TEL SENT SECSTATE, DIA WASHDC, INFO AMMAN, DHAHRAN,
LONDON, JIDDA, JERUSALEM, MOSCOW, PARIS, TEL AVIV,
USCINCEUR, USUN NY, KUWAIT FROM BEIRUT MAY 7 TH:

QUOTE: BEIRUT 5152

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, LE

SUBJ: SITUATION IN LEBANON

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: SITUATION IN LEBANON IS ONE OF CON-
TINUING OVERALL CALM WITH OCCASIONAL INCIDENTS AS EFFORTS BY
LEBANESE POLITICANS AND ARAB " MEDIATORS" TO " RESOLVE CRISIS"
CONTINUE. PRIMIN HAFEZ HAS DECLARED HE WILL NOT RESIGN, AND WE
UNDERSTAND PRES FRANGIE REMAINS DETERMINED THAT ANY MODUS VIVENDI
CONCLUDED WITH FEDAYEEN WILL ENABLE GOL PLACE TIGHTER
CONTROLS ON THEIR ACTIVITY. END SUMMARY.

2. AS OF 0900 Z MAY 7, SITUATION ON GROUND REMAINS QUIET
THROUGHOUT COUNTRY. ONLY INCIDENTS REPORTED MAY 6 WERE
ABDUCTION BY SA' IQA ELEMENTS OF AROUND A DOZEN LEBANESE
CUSTOMS OFFICIALS FROM THEIR NORTHERN BORDER POST AT
ABOUDIYYEH (SYRIAN AUTHORITIES FREED THEM SOON AFTERWARDS),
EARLY MORNING EXPLOSION AND MACHINE- GUN ATTACK AT SIDON
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COURTHOUSE (LIGHT DAMAGE), EXCHANGE OF FIRE BETWEEN ARMY PATROL AND FEDAYEEN SOME 7 KMS NORTH OF ISRAELI BORDER IN WESTERN SECTOR (AT LEAST TWO FEDAYEEN WOUNDED, ACCORDING TO ARMY), AND BRIEF OUTBREAK OF FIRING FROM TAL ZAATAR CAMP IN EASTERN SUBURBS OF BEIRUT WHICH DREW ARMY RIPOSTE. ALL INCIDENTS APPEARED ISOLATED, AND NO LEBANESE CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED. NEAR MIDNIGHT MAY 6 THERE WAS RENEWED FIRING IN SOUTHEASTERN BEKAA, BUT THIS WAS QUICKLY BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL AND ' ARAFAT BLAMING IT ON PFLP/ GC AND/ OR PDFLP.

3. ON POLITICAL FRONT, COLLECTIVE AND INDIVIDUAL EFFORTS OF LEBANESE POLITICANS AND ARAB " MEDIATORS" (INCLUDING SARG FONMIN KHADDAM, EGYPT' S HASSAN SABRI AL KHOLI AND ARAB LEAGUE' S MAHMOUD RIAD) TO " RESOLVE CRISIS" CONTINUE, WITH NUMEROUS MEETINGS MAY 5-6 AND CONTINUING TODAY. PRIMIN HAFEZ MADE NOETWORTHY STATEMENT ON TV EVENING MAY 5 IN WHICH HE ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD STAY ON AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT PROBLEMS WITH FEDAYEEN COULD BE RE-SOLVED THROUGH MUTUAL COOPERATION AND HELP OF ARAB MEDIATORS. SAID HIS TASK WAS TO REASSURE " PALESTINE BROTHERS" THAT PRES FRANGIE, ARMY AND LEBANESE PEOPLE SUPPORT THEIR CAUSE AND TO CONVINCE LEBANESE THAT FEDAYEEN HAVE NO INTENTION OF INFRINGING ON LEBANON' S SOVEREIGNTY. HOPED THAT ALL PARTIES CONCERNED WOULD ASSIST IN THIS PROCESS. WE NOTED THAT IN AFTERMATH HAFEZ' STATEMENT, BOTH RASHID KARAME AND KAMAL JUMBLATT ARE NO LONGER PRESSING HIM TO RESIGN.

4. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY VERY RELIABLE SOURCES CLOSE TO PRES FRANGIE THAT THERE WILL BE NO NEW ACCORDS OR PIECES OF PAPER, MERELY SOME FORM OF TACIT UNDERSTANDING, AND THAT GOL WILL RPT WILL SUCCEED IN IMPOSING TIGHTER CONTROLS ON FEDAYEEN. HOWEVER, THERE IS NO WAY OF PREDICTING AT PRESENT JUST WHAT THESE CONTROLS WILL BE IN TERMS OF EITHER NEW " UNDERSTANDING" OR IN ACTUAL PRACTICE. BOTH ARAB " MEDIATORS" AND LEBANESE POLITICANS APPEAR HAVE GREAT DEAL OF TALKING LEFT IN THEM. AT SAME TIME, FRANGIE RELIABLY REPORTED TAKING FIRM AND CLEAR STAND ON BASIC PRINCIPLE OF LEBANESE SOVEREIGNTY, TELLING ALL CONCERNED THAT GOL HAS AS MUCH RIGHT ENFORCE ITS SOVEREIGNTY OVER PALESTINIANS AS SUCH OTHER ARAB GOVTS AS SYRIA AND EGYPT
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(WHICH ENVOYS ARE MOST ACTIVE). LEBANESE ARMY, UPON WHICH FRANGIE RELIES MORE AND MORE HEAVILY AND WHICH WILL HAVE MAJOR VOICE IN ANY EVENTUAL " UNDERSTANDING", HAS NOT YET BEEN ENGAGED IN TALKS WITH FEDAYEEN. FRANGIE AND ARMY APPARENTLY INTEND KEEP THEIR POWDER DRY UNTIL PASSIONS HAVE FURTHER SUBSIDED AND POLITICIANS AND SPECIAL ENVOYS BEGIN TO LOSE THEIR VOICE. HOUGHTON

UNQUOTE ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
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30 JUN 2005

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